



EASTER CONFERENCE 23rd, 24th and 25th APRIL 2019
MAIN HALL: HAMPSTEAD OLD TOWN HALL, LONDON NW3 4QP

Upsetting the Apple Cart

Tuesday 23rd April	1.00 pm	Registration	
	1.45pm	Introduction	
	2.00 – 3.00	Trouble and Strife: The role of revolutions and revolutionaries No events in history have created more controversy than revolutions. Revolutionaries, while leaving an indelible impact on their own countries, have also often changed the course of human history. How has our concept of revolution changed over the years?	Sir Thomas Harris
		3.00 – 3.20 Tea	
	3.20 – 4.20	Charles Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection Darwin's <i>Origin of Species</i> in 1859 and its sequel <i>The Descent of Man</i> evoked great controversy in their day and continue to be disputed by creationists today. While modern DNA analysis allows us to measure how all living forms are evolutionarily related, further controversy arises when the biological concept of 'survival of the fittest' becomes hijacked for social ends.	Robin Weiss
Wednesday 24th April	10.30 – 11.30	Climate Change and Hothouse Earth: Are we reaching the tipping point? According to the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), we only have 11 years to stop runaway climate change. Unchecked, it could destroy human society and much of life on earth. This talk highlights the main drivers and looks at what we as individuals can do about it.	Lisa Thomson
		11.30 - 11.50 Coffee	
	11.50 – 12.50	The Gift of a Lifetime The philosopher Adorno was puzzled by Beethoven's late quartets. But why? Surely time itself delivers a deeper, even fiercer soul and heart? We look at writers and artists who have challenged perceptions of ageing and stared down the lateness of creativity.	Linda Blandford
		12.50 – 2.00 Lunch	
	2.00 – 3.00	'Summer of Blood': Harsh laws and corruption When injustice becomes intolerable, are popular risings the answer?	Shirley Levy
		3.00 – 3.20 Tea	

	3.20 – 4.20	<p>Artists from Caravaggio to Tracey Emin and their viewers</p> <p>It is not only in the 21st century that artists have been heavily criticized for being mistaken or incomprehensible. Some of the old masters ran into as much criticism as the cubists and abstract painters in early modern times. Caravaggio and Emin shocked their onlookers for very different reasons.</p>	<p>Michael Kauffmann</p>
<p>Thursday 25th April</p>	10.30 – 11.30	<p>The Great Stink and the Great Evasion: Chadwick, Hall, Accum and Wakley versus the parish pump</p> <p>Official neglect of major Public Health concerns in 19th Century Britain. The lack of a sewage system permitted cholera epidemics and gross pollution of the Thames until the unbearable Stink forced action on an unwilling government. Despite knowing about widespread food adulteration effective law to prevent it was evaded until the 1860s. Lessons for today?</p>	<p>Tony Dayan</p>
		11.30 – 11.50 Coffee	
	11.50 – 12.50	<p>A troublemaker in 1740 with effects through to the 20th Century</p> <p>How Frederick II's invasion of Silesia was an important hinge around which much European political history of the 18th century revolved. Starting with a small but dramatic episode I use 'micro-history' to look at 'macro' topics, like militarism, how individuals and chance play an important role in history, how central European events affected Britain and France in North America, and also how the modern political state emerged out of the dynastic state.</p>	<p>Christopher Dean</p>
		12.50 – 2.00 Lunch	
	2.00 – 3.00	<p>Gaudi and controversy</p> <p>Responsible for the unfinished surrealistic Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, Gaudi still attracts controversy and debate.</p>	<p>Gwen Wright</p>
		3.00 – 3.20 Tea	
	3.20 – 4.20	<p>Wagner – the making of a revolutionary</p> <p>Wagner was arguably the most influential and controversial musical revolutionary ever. What led him to become such a reviled, adored, charismatic, amoral, sycophantic, masterly, greedy, egotistical and enduring genius of a man? Herbie Goldberg will trace his convoluted life, starting as a shameless imitator of Beethoven to the most original composer of his age.</p>	<p>Herbie Goldberg</p>
	4.30	CLOSE	

Biographies of the speakers

Sir Thomas Harris: Sir Thomas Harris is a former British diplomat who served in Japan, Washington, New York, Nigeria and as ambassador to Korea. He also spent 10 years in the private sector working for a major international bank.

Robin Weiss: Robin Weiss PhD is Emeritus Professor of Viral Oncology at University College London. He was previously Director of the Institute of Cancer Research, Royal Marsden Hospital. For most of his career Robin studied viruses, especially those that cause cancer or AIDS, focussing on how cancer viruses and HIV enter and alter the cells that they invade. His studies of HIV also led to the screening tests used by blood banks and highlighted the problem of developing an HIV vaccine. Robin's contribution to our knowledge of viruses has been recognised by his election to the Royal Society and to the US National Academy of Sciences.

Lisa Thomson: Lisa Thomson is a volunteer Greenpeace activist and public speaker. Driven by environmental destruction she saw in the media, she got involved with her local group in 2002. Since then she has campaigned on countless issues including, air pollution, ocean plastics and rainforest destruction. In her day job, Lisa is a camera woman/ director and works on broadcast, arts and educational films. She is passionate about environmental issues and hopes to inspire others to protect our amazing planet.

Linda Blandford: Linda Blandford worked as a journalist for, in succession, The Sunday Times, The Observer, The Guardian, The New York Times and the Los Angeles Times. She then spent 18 years as tutor for the BA Hons degree in Politics, Philosophy and History at Birkbeck College and claims her 5 years at U3A in London brought together the best of everything, especially those working in partnership with John O'Sullivan who joins her today.

Shirley Levy: I left School after one year in the Sixth Form, which was the earliest I could bully my parents into allowing me to go. After a few short-lived false starts I began work with the English Folk Dance and Song Society where I stayed for six years. I was originally employed as the Librarian's Secretary, but she became ill and I was faced with having to reply to all the queries about the origins of folk customs, songs etc. It was this that gave me a taste for research. I enrolled on a Teacher Training course in Brighton and was assigned to a School in White City where I remained for 30 years, teaching History and doing a great deal of pastoral work. Taking early retirement I took an English degree at Birkbeck followed by a Masters in Medieval Literature and Languages at Kings' College London. This was followed by joining U3A, where I have been ever since.

Michael Kauffmann: Michael Kauffmann was Keeper of Prints & Drawings and Paintings at the Victoria & Albert Museum, 1975 - 1985. He was Director of the Courtauld Institute of Art and Professor of Art History, University of London, 1985 - 95. He is the author of several museum catalogues and also of books on medieval art.

Tony Dayan: Tony Dayan has evolved successively through physician, pathologist, toxicologist in industry and academia and regulatory adviser – almost as many larval stages as an oyster. Now, in his third [or is it fourth?] retirement he is trying to learn the real position of Science in Society by asking the 6 important W's – What, Where, When, Why, Who. And Wow!

Christopher Dean: Christopher Dean read history at university and taught it at a London school for 37 years. His main interests lie in European history (including English and British history) and international relations, from the 15th to the 20th century. He gave a talk on Russian history at the Easter Conference in 2008 and has been a Co-ordinator at the U3A in London since 2003. He has also led seminars at the national U3A Summer School at Cirencester

Gwen Wright: Before joining the U3A I worked in the Diplomatic Service (with postings to New York & New Delhi), British Airways, 2 years in the Solomon Islands (I wanted to see the South Pacific!), a French aerospace company in London, a French bank in the City & finally Kingfisher plc. I studied for a degree through the Open University & graduated in 2006 with a B.A. in Humanities with Art History. I joined Harrow U3A in 2007 & started my art groups later that year. I joined the committee in spring 2008, where I am now serving as Vice-Chairman. A couple of years ago I started an Art Appreciation class at U3AL. I have been Chairman of the London Region of U3As & also London Trustee on the National Executive Committee.

Herbie Goldberg: Having spent 24 years with IBM as an engineer and instructor in hardware and software, Herbie became an independent IT consultant specialising in database design. He has had a lifelong interest in classical music of all kinds and enjoys exploring the works of lesser-known composers as well as the established masterpieces. Since 2016, he has run a fortnightly class in Classical Music Appreciation for U3A in London as well as being a guest speaker for other organisations.